

# **Legal protection of farm animals against cruelty**

The thesis deals with the protection of farm animals against cruelty and its main goal is to evaluate the current state of legislation in this field, with respect to both theory and praxis. The thesis comprises of five chapters excluding introduction and summary. The summary sums up all the findings introduced in the thesis and presents *de lege ferenda* ideas.

The first two chapters define basic terms crucial for the topic and also introduce the historical basis of farm animal legal protection. The current legislation is dealt with at first at the international and European level in chapter three. More attention is naturally given to legal protection of farm animals in the Czech Republic, especially to enforcement of the farm animal protection laws. This enables the thesis to eventually evaluate how effectively farm animals are protected by law in our country.

Chapter number five tries to answer the fundamental question behind this thesis; is the current legislation at such a level that would ensure that farm animals are indeed protected against cruelty and that would ensure their good welfare? The thesis uses knowledge from scientific fields such as ethology to be able to answer this question and evaluate the practical impact of the legislation on animal welfare. This chapter deals with the most common farm animals in the Czech Republic, but also worldwide – poultry, pigs and cattle – but does not forget about the important aspects of animal agriculture such as transportation and slaughter. The chapter is focused on legislation in the Czech Republic, but in some places also mentions legislation of other European countries in some places to provide a source of inspiration for the Czech Republic.

The thesis aspires to not only describe the current state of the farm animal protection legislation, but strives to point out shortcomings and suggest possible solutions for the future.

## **Key words**

- Animal
- Farm animals
- Animal agriculture
- Cruelty
- Animal welfare